(BSNL); Licence has also been granted to M/s Hexacom India Limited for North East Telecom Circle Services Area. CMTS is being presently provided by M/s Reliance Telecom (P) Limited only in Shillong & Guwahati. Other operators have yet to start the service in these areas.

(b) and (c) The Government decision, to allow extension and fresh start of CMTS, was conveyed on 21.8.02 to the Licensed Cellular Operators in the North East and Assam Telecom Circle Service Areas.

(d) BSNL has decided to roll-out its CMTS services as per its plan under Phase-I and Phase-II together in the North East and Assam Telecom Circle Service Areas from August, 2003, to cover various cities/towns.

Waiting List for Telephone Connections

190. SHRI SWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of person on the waiting list for telephone connections in the country as on the 30th April, 2002, district-wise/State-wise;

(b) the number of telephone connections provided during the last three years, till date, district-wise; and

(c) the number of telephone connections proposed to be provided during the year 2002-03 and the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) The number of persons on the waiting list for telephone connections in the country as on the 30.4.2002 is given in the enclosed statement (*See* below). Information is being collected for waiting list and no. of telephone connections provided during the last 3 years, district-wise and will be laid on table of the House.

(c) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd. (MTNL) propose to provide 55.9 lakh and 1.2 lakh new telephone connections during the year 2002-2003. More number of exchanges are being commissioned and more underground cables are being laid to provide connections. MTNL has waived off registration and installation charges.

Statement

State-wise Waiting List as on 30.4.2002

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Waiting list as on 30.4.2002
1.	Andaman & Nicobar	149
2.	Andhra Pradesh	69103
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	2781
4.	Assam	10495
5.	Bihar	79015
6.	Chhattisgarh	2078
7.	Goa	7931
8.	Gujarat	75894
9.	Haryana	86513
10.	Himachal Pradesh	23373
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	41289
12.	Jharkhand	10122
13.	Karnataka	115257
14.	Kerala	576615
15.	Madhya Pradesh	12543
16.	Maharashtra	160513
17.	Manipur	6194
18.	Meghalaya	762
19.	Mizoram	989
20.	Nagaland	216
21.	Orissa	23397
22.	Punjab	80814
23.	Rajasthan	113694
24.	Sikkim	4823
25.	Tamil Nadu	54853
26.	Tripura	4694
27.	Uttar Pradesh	89410
28.	Uttaranchal	7667
29.	West Bengal	154609
30.	Delhi	11735
	TOTAL :	1827528